laid down transfer policy and administrative needs.

(b) The Memorandum of Settlement signed between Management and the Federation of STC Employees' Union does not contain any clause about transfer.

(c) No such transfer orders have been issued in violation of the rules.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Tobacco Research Centre in Karnataka

1367. SHRI H. K. JAVERE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka produces best quality Virginia tobacco in the country;

(b) if so, the details of production in the State during the last three years;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned by export of tobacco during the last three years;

(d) whether Government propose to establish a Research Centre for tobacco growth in Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco produced in Karnataka is classified as neutral filler. The data on production in the State over the past three years is as follows:—

Year	Production (million kilograms)
1999-2000	45.21
2000-2001	41.98
2001-2002	57.68

(c) The foreign exchange generated by export of tobacco and tobacco products over the past three years is as follows:

Year	Foreign Exchange (M.US $)
1999-2000	245.55
2000-2001	203.55
2001-2002	189.04

Source: Tobacco Board

(d) and (e) The Central Tobacco Research Institute has a research station in Hunsur, Karnataka, which caries out research on tobacco cultivation in the State. In addition, the Agricultural Research Station at Shimoga, which is attached to the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, has also been associated with research in the cultivation of this crop.

Functions of ITPO

1368. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the functions of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO);

(b) whether its existence has helped to increase exports in various fields;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the benefits reaped out of its existence during the last three years; and

(d) the details of foreign fairs conducted by ITPO during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) is the premier trade promotion agency of India and provides a broad spectrum of services to trade and industry so as to promote India's exports. These services include organisation of trade fairs and exhibitions in India and abroad, Byer-Seller Meets, Contact Promotion Programmes apart from information dissemination on products and markets. Briefly, ITPO have been providing the following services in recent times:

(i) Each year 20,000 Indian exporters are being served.